

THANKING ROSA CHEN FOR HER  
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in February 2006, I rise to thank Ms. Rosa Chen for 16 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rosa began her career at the House working as a senior programmer/analyst. In that capacity, Rosa has served this great institution for the last 16 years as a valuable employee at House Information Resources, HIR, within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. Rosa has made significant contributions in the development of the Office Systems Management, OSM, application. The OSM application has been used by the CAO to control equipment inventory. Most recently, Rosa has played a significant technical support role on the Fixed Assets and Inventory Management System, FAIMS, where she was responsible for Oracle Developer reports customer support, and assisted with barcode function implementation for FAIMS physical inventory.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Rosa for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Rosa many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY  
ZABLOCKI**

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a talented young woman from Highlands Ranch, CO, Ms. Courtney Zablocki.

Courtney will proudly represent these United States of America in the 20th Winter Olympiad currently underway in Torino, Italy. Courtney will be competing as a slider in the women's luge events during this Olympiad.

Courtney has been training as a slider for the past 13 years. She will be competing in her second Winter Games. As a member of the United States Olympic women's luge team in Salt Lake City, Courtney finished 13th. In the final World Cup event before the Olympics Courtney finished in a promising fifth position.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish Courtney Zablocki a safe, successful and enjoyable Winter Olympics as she represents our country in Italy.

**IN HONOR OF THE 2006 OHIO BUSINESS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AND EXPO**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of the 2006 Ohio

Business Women's Conference and Expo, held this year at Cleveland's Cleveland Renaissance Hotel & Conference Center.

The Conference & Expo is a collaborative effort, presented by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio, the Small Business Administration, the Urban League, the Northeast Ohio Minority Business Council (NOMBC), the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) and a coalition of Chambers of Commerce throughout Ohio. The event promises to attract hundreds of women business owners and numerous exhibitors.

The organizers of the Conference & Expo are focused on promoting women's business ventures and fostering vital connections of support where women entrepreneurs can find resources to expand and improve their business goals. Additionally, the Conference and Expo will provide a forum where women business owners can display their services and products to America's leading corporations and public agencies dedicated to doing business with women-owned businesses.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of the 2006 Ohio Business Women's Conference and Expo, a collaborative venture that promises to bolster the success of women business owners throughout our region. The event, while reflecting the continued struggle of women and minorities to attain economic equality and opportunity, also highlights the reality that through continued support and collaboration, the road to economic security and the attainment of professional dreams will be open to all women, clearing a path on which the next generation of women entrepreneurs will follow.

**HONORING HADLEY A. WEINBERG**

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hadley A. Weinberg of Bemus Point, New York for being named by the Consumers' Research Council of America to its list of best financial planners throughout the United States.

Mr. Weinberg a partner at Weinberg Financial Group, Financial Education Resources and Chautauqua 401K with a total of eight affiliates at offices in Jamestown and Buffalo. He has served thousands of clients offering financial services from wealth management to retirement plans and is involved with numerous community organizations.

The criteria employed by the Consumers' Research Council complies its best financial planners list using criteria it deems valuable in determining its top professionals. This criteria includes experience, training, professional associations and financial certifications. All criteria Mr. Weinberg has accomplished all of this in his 23 years of service to the industry.

Mr. Weinberg has displayed extreme excellence in the field of financial planning, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

**U.S. BUDGET CUTS WORRY  
HOSPITALS**

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in the February 8 issue of the Sun Chronicle, published in Attleboro, Massachusetts, there is a very good article about the reaction of hospitals to the President's proposal to change the Medicare law so that future spending would be less on Medicare than it otherwise would be.

In particular, the article quotes Linda Shyavitz, who is the president and CEO of Sturdy Memorial Hospital, an excellent medical facility that serves a very important and diverse population in the city of Attleboro.

Reading the article, including the comments of Ms. Shyavitz, reinforced my view that these proposed changes that the President has put forward are ill advised and would do social damage. I think it is important for Members to understand what people who are charged with important responsibilities think about these proposed reductions in future spending patterns that the President has called for, and because Ms. Shyavitz is an extremely well-qualified and thoughtful administrator of a very important medical facility, I was particularly pleased to have this chance to share her views with our colleagues.

[From the Sun Chronicle, Feb. 8, 2006]

U.S. BUDGET CUTS WORRY HOSPITALS

(By Gloria LaBounty)

ATTLEBORO.—Hospital administrators are keeping a wary eye on Congress as it plows through the Bush administration's proposed cuts in Medicare.

"I think hospitals all over the country will be fighting this," said Linda Shyavitz, president and chief executive officer of Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Attleboro.

According to initial reports, Bush's new \$2.7 trillion budget plan would mean a loss in Massachusetts of \$758 million in Medicaid funds.

It would also mean a reduction of \$213 million in Medicare payments to health-care providers over five years.

The Medicaid impact is still vague, however, because the state is redesigning its program, the Massachusetts Hospital Association says.

The Medicare piece already has hospitals concerned.

Although information so far has been presented in broad terms and details are still days away, Shyavitz said indications are that the proposal could mean a reduction to Sturdy of \$575,000 per in Medicare payments.

All elderly patients would still be cared for at Sturdy, but the hospital would get less reimbursement for the care it provides. Shyavitz said.

Asked how the hospital would compensate for the loss in revenue, Shyavitz said it would be premature to speculate because the information has just come out and the president's intentions are still being absorbed.

But she said what hospitals will do in the short term is urge members of Congress to reject the cuts and not support the budget.

Paul Wingle, senior director of communications for the state hospital association or MHA, said the Medicare cuts would put a financial strain on hospitals, and more of them would serve patients at a loss, or at a very thin margin.

"Hospitals would have to scramble to make up the loss," he said, and some might do that through cutbacks, or through attempts to make up the revenue elsewhere.

That in turn creates pressure for rate increases.

Shyavitz said hospitals cannot simply raise rates, and would have to negotiate increases with health insurance companies. But she said many hospitals will want to do that if the cuts materialize.

Shyavitz said she is confident that Massachusetts congressmen and senators, including Sen. John Kerry and Sen. Edward Kennedy, and U.S. Reps. James McGovern and Barney Frank, will oppose the cuts.

Kennedy has already spoken out by telling the Associated Press that Bush's budget proposal "shortchanges our competitiveness, shortchanges our opportunity, and shortchanges our future."

#### NEIL BORTZ HONORED AS A GREAT LIVING CINCIANNATIAN

#### HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Neil Bortz, a residential and commercial developer, community leader, philanthropist, and visionary, who will be formally honored as a Great Living Cincinnati on February 16 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber has bestowed this award on distinguished members of the community annually since 1967. Recipients of this prestigious award are chosen on the basis of professional achievement; community service; leadership; compassion; and vision. Past honorees have included Neil Armstrong, Dr. Albert Sabin and Charles Scripps.

Mr. Bortz built his career on an uphill challenge: launching the Mount Adams renaissance in the early 1960s as a founding partner in Towne Properties before going on to develop properties across Cincinnati, Dayton, Lexington and Florida. He has made countless improvements to our community and raised the quality of life for many in our region.

In addition to sparking the rebirth of the picturesque, hilltop neighborhood of Cincinnati's Mount Adams, Mr. Bortz also helped lead the housing renaissance in downtown Cincinnati with several award-winning residential developments. His most recent projects include residential properties along the Ohio River. Mr. Bortz has also made an impact on our area by creating great places to live, work and shop in the Cincinnati suburbs.

Mr. Bortz has been active in many arts, civic and philanthropic activities, including serving as founding chair of the Walnut Hills High School Alumni Foundation, which recently completed a new Arts & Sciences wing. Other boards include Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Equity Fund, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Reds Hall of Fame, Advisory Board to the Cincinnati Park Board, Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, Playhouse in the Park, the Harvard Club of Cincinnati, the Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau and Cincinnati Country Day School. Among his many honors include the first University of Cincinnati Distinguished Service Award, Cincinnati Region Entrepreneur of the Year, and National Conference of Christian and Jews Outstanding Citizen Award.

Mr. Bortz earned his Master of Business Administration from Harvard University. He has three sons, all of whom work with him at Towne Properties, two stepchildren, and six grandchildren.

All of us in the Greater Cincinnati area congratulate Mr. Bortz on being named a Great Living Cincinnati.

#### HONORING JAMES P. HOFFA

#### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James P. Hoffa for his strong leadership and commitment to working families.

As the only son of James R. Hoffa, former General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Mr. Hoffa grew up on picket lines and in union meetings. James P. Hoffa became a Teamster member himself on his 18th birthday when his father swore him in. As a young Teamster, Hoffa worked as a laborer in Detroit and Alaska, loading and unloading freight from ships, driving trucks and buses and operating heavy equipment.

At Michigan State University, Hoffa played football for legendary Coach Duffy Daugherty and graduated with a degree in Economics. He went on to receive his Law degree from the University of Michigan, and worked as a Teamster attorney from 1968 through 1993. From 1993 to 1998, Hoffa worked at Michigan Joint Council 43.

In 1999 Hoffa was elected General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Under his leadership, Teamsters are winning industry-leading contracts, engaging in contract enforcement and organizing thousands of new members.

The Union's renewed commitment to political action includes DRIVING America's Future, a new initiative that encourages and supports Teamster members running for political office. This effort will ensure even more Teamster influence in state and national government.

James P. Hoffa has spent a lifetime preparing for the challenge of running the Teamsters Union. He knows, first-hand, what Teamsters can accomplish when they work together. He is determined to lead a Union that is a credit to its proud history.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. James P. Hoffa for his life's work in building better lives for our families, our communities and our country.

#### IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF CHRISTOPHER PENN

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Christopher Penn, cherished son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend. Mr. Penn's insightful cinematic performances reflected the human condition with subtle power, in a style that ranged from comedic and sublime to rage and despair. His

brilliant character portrayals resonated with moviegoers worldwide, connecting us all in our shared humanity.

Although not often cast as the leading man, Mr. Penn's beautifully understated performances consistently lent grace and authenticity to every role he played. From his endearing performance as an insecure teenager in Footloose, to his colorful and unforgettable performances in Reservoir Dogs, True Romance, The Funeral, Pale Rider and Mulholland Falls, Mr. Penn's personal integrity and depth of character clearly radiated onscreen.

Mr. Penn began his film career as a child actor in the 1970's. His performances in more than forty films captured the hearts of moviegoers and earned the respect and admiration of both colleagues and critics. In 1996, Mr. Penn won a Venice Film Festival Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in the "The Funeral." He also was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award and a Genie Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and remembrance of Christopher Penn, whose young life was framed by family, friends and his exceptional artistic dedication. I offer my deepest condolences to his mother and father, Leo and Eileen; to his brothers, Michael and Sean; to his sisters-in-law, Aimee and Robin; and to his many extended family members and friends. Mr. Penn's gentle spirit and kind heart will live on forever within the hearts of his family and friends, and he will be remembered always by his adoring audience.

#### RECOGNIZING LOCAL SOLDIERS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THIS NATION

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to express gratitude to a number of soldiers from Western New York who have recently completed a tour of duty where they fought heroically on behalf of the United States of America.

In particular, I would like to recognize SGT Benn, SSG Benson, SGT Carr, SFC Collins, MAJ Dukes, SSG Hendricks, SSG Jindra, SGT Kulesz, SSG LaBuda, SSG Lemay, SFC Liberatore, SFC Press, SSG Printup, SPC Santiago and SFC Schuler, just a few of our local heroes who selflessly put their lives on the line to protect and improve the lives of those in this country and others worldwide.

These decorated men and women have demonstrated supreme courage and commitment through their call to duty and fight for liberty. Their valiant efforts are the reason why we continue to be the "land of the free and the home of the brave."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of the 27th Congressional District and all Americans I wish to extend my sincerest appreciation to these courageous and noble soldiers. Their service and sacrifices help protect the safety and freedoms that make this Nation great.